

the cement chunks they tossed in there  
by the bullhead docks -- a hillbilly,  
some said, from Georgia,  
who got in bad with some  
colored boys from the North End --  
no, we ran under the hose  
when the sun was out,  
and if it rained, O we  
ran like the day you were born!

### Banal Story

Burt used to say to Eddie, "Hey, Polack!" --  
and it really got the laughs because  
Eddie had blond hair so curly  
you had to wonder about it,  
a girlish dimple in his chin,  
big cherry red pimples, and  
if he wasn't clumsy and thin  
your old lady ate raw spinach.

Burt, on the other hand, had  
a set of coal black  
cut-down hopped-up stream-  
lined lines,  
a woman who did  
the dirty deed extra-  
special anytime, and he  
never got pimples of any color.

Now Burt has four snotty kids,  
the extra-special deed has run  
to fat, and  
his cut-down hopped-up stream-  
lined lines seems slightly funny --  
but when Eddie comes down  
in his clean white shirt and gartered socks  
to see what's what with the monkeys  
and assembly jocks, guess what  
Burt still sez to Eddie?

-- Gary Gildner

Des Moines, Iowa